

**QUESTIONS FOR APPOINTEES TO THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY BOARD OF CONTROL**

1. What goals would you like to accomplish during your time on the board?
2. Over the last 15 or 20 years it seems that all state universities have been expanding programs to try to offer everything to everyone. Do you think this is a good idea?
3. Please describe the conditions that would have to exist before you would vote to increase tuition?
4. Governor Granholm recently proposed giving additional funds from the federal economic stimulus package to universities and community colleges that hold the line on tuition. Do you support this proposal?
5. If Northern Michigan University is facing a budget deficit, what areas would you look to first to make cuts? Please list several areas where the University has already made cuts or become more efficient.
6. Capital outlay projects for universities require a 25% match before getting funds from the state for building projects. In these tough economic times, do you think a university should be spending money on building projects rather than using that money to hold down tuition rates?
7. What type of outcomes should the university measure to determine if it is being successful?
8. What is your position on the importance of state universities as authorizers of charter public schools?
9. In which areas of technological research does your university specialize? How effective is your school at commercializing this research to help grow the state's economy?
10. Do you think that K-12 institutions are doing a good job of preparing students for college? Why?

**Questions for Appointees to the Northern Michigan
University Board of Control**

What goals would you like to accomplish during your time on the board?

1. Maintain the quality, access and affordability of attending Northern Michigan University.
2. Keep tuition competitive with peer institutions.
3. Sustain or increase enrollment, retention and graduate rates.

Over the last 15 or 20 years it seems that all state universities have been expanding programs to try to offer everything to everyone. Do you think this is a good idea?

No.

Please describe the conditions that would have to exist before you would vote to increase tuition?

It is my sincere intention to not increase the tuition rates at Northern Michigan University. As board members we must do whatever we can to keep the cost of a higher education affordable to those who wish to pursue one. We must first look within the university to see where further cuts can be made.

Governor Granholm recently proposed giving additional funds from the federal economic stimulus package to universities and community colleges that hold the line on tuition. Do you support this proposal?

Yes.

If Northern Michigan University is facing a budget deficit, what areas would you look to first to make cuts? Please list several areas where the University has already made cuts or become more efficient.

I would, first, like the University to present a plan of action for such cuts. In the past, NMU has been very good about appointing a university committee to review and recommend cuts. This was a wise plan of action then and it will be again, if necessary.

NMU has been very good about cutting its operating costs. Since 2003, Northern has made considerable general fund budget cuts, operational savings, and reallocations. Five vice president positions were merged into two vice president positions, and five academic colleges were merged into three colleges. In addition, vacant staff positions have been frozen and positions eliminated.

Capital outlay projects for universities require a 25% match before getting funds from the state for building projects. In these tough economic times, do you think a university should be spending money on building projects rather than using that money to hold down tuition rates?

I can support such expenditures if the university can show how the operation will be self-sufficient once completed.

What type of outcomes should the university measure to determine if it is being successful?

1. Years to complete an undergraduate degree.
2. Retention rates.
3. Learning outcomes specific to the major and associated with an accrediting body.

What is your position on the importance of state universities as authorizers of charter public schools?

The university, as authorizer, sets up processes and approves charter schools. In addition, the university is accountable for managing and monitoring the charter school progress in compliance with all applicable state laws.

In which areas of technological research does your university specialize? How effective is your school at commercializing this research to help grow the state's economy?

Northern is not a research institution, as are Michigan and Michigan State. However, in the area of technology, Northern has established national standards in both laptop and infrastructure deployment. Major telecoms now use Northern's campus environment to test next-generation equipment as well as to observe a campus culture's use of technology to teach, learn and conduct business. All academic majors are technology enhanced. As an example, it is not unusual for teacher education graduates to become the technology officer for their school.

Another example is the collaboration between Pioneer Surgical and NMU that requires extremely technical and sophisticated machining of orthopedic prosthesis and surgical appliance us In catastrophic bone repair. NMU students are trained on Pioneer Surgical machines.

The Teaching, Learning, and Communication (TLC) initiative at NMU places a notebook computer in the hands of every full-time undergraduate student and faculty. This initiative makes NMU one of the largest public university laptop programs in the world. Laptop program participants receive a new notebook computer every two years. This campus-wide effort for technological mastery helps NMU students compete in the high-tech global marketplace after they graduate.

Do you think that K-12 institutions are doing a good job of preparing students for college? Why?

Yes and no. Some are more successful than others. As a result, NMU and the other state public institutions of higher education do a fine job of providing a quality education to those who wish to pursue one. Some students come better prepared than others. With the right effort and determination, most succeed.